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HUBR 1186 (10102735)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Dony, et al.
Serial No : To Be Assigned
Filing Date : Herewith
For : USE OF A MELANOMA INHIBITING ACTIVITY
FACTOR (MIA) FOR CARTILAGE AND BONE
REPAIR

April 2, 2001

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

In advance of prosecution, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-17, without prejudice.

Add the following new claims:

18. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a melanoma inhibiting activity factor and at least one biocompatible and/or biodegradable matrix selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, alginate, calcium sulfate, tricalcium phosphate, hydroxylapatite, polylactic-co-glycolid, polyanhydrides and collagen.

19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a melanoma inhibiting activity factor (MIA) in combination with an osteoinductive protein.

20. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the ratio of osteoinductive protein : MIA is 1 : 1 to 1 : 20.

21. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein said osteoinductive protein is selected from the group consisting of BMP-2, BMP-7 and a hedgehog protein.